NOMURA et al.
Appl. No. 09/892,512
Response to Office Action dated December 2, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A program supplying method for supplying a program from a server through a network to a user terminal including a terminal main body and <u>one or more</u> optional units combined therewith, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

determining an operating environment of the user terminal based on the optional units that are combined with the terminal main body;

transmitting operating environment information indicative of <u>the determined</u> ~~an~~ operating environment ~~of the user terminal which is changed according to a combination of the optional units~~, from the user terminal through the network to the server before the program is supplied; and

determining whether the program is operable in the operating environment based on the operating environment information and transmitting a result of <u>the</u> determination from the server through the network to the user terminal.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended):   The program supplying method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

displaying <u>at the user terminal</u> the result of the determination as to whether the program is operable ~~in the user terminal~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended):   The program supplying method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

transmitting an order for the program from the user terminal through the network to the server when the program is determined <u>to be</u> operable.

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Claim 4 (Currently Amended):   The program supplying method of claim 2, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

transmitting an order for the program from the user terminal through the network to the server when the program is determined <u>to be</u> operable.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended):   The program supplying method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

generating a program list indicative of programs which can be supplied by the server;

transmitting the program list from the server through the network to the user terminal; and

selecting a program from the program list.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended):   The program supplying method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

generating a program list indicative of programs operable in the operating environment of the user terminal based on the operating environment information;

transmitting the program list from the server through the network to the user terminal; and

selecting a program from the program list.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended):   The program supplying method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

when the program is determined as being inoperable, recording the result of <u>the</u> determination as information on the user terminal, at the server.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended):   The program supplying method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

installing the program supplied from the server through the network to the user terminal, thereby extending functions of the user terminal.

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Claim 9 (Currently Amended):   A program supplying system comprising:

a user terminal including a terminal main body and <u>one or more</u> optional units combined therewith;

a server from which a program is supplied through a network to the user terminal,

wherein the user terminal further includes operating environment determining means for determining an operating environment of the user terminal <u>based on</u> ~~which is changed according to a combination of~~ the optional units <u>that are combined with the terminal main body</u>, and transmits operating environment information indicative of the determined operating environment through the network to the server before the program is supplied, and

wherein the server includes operation determining means for determining whether the program is operable in the operating environment based on the operating environment information received, and transmits a result of <u>the</u> determination as to operability through the network to the user terminal.

Claim 10 (Original):   The program supplying system of claim 9, wherein the user terminal further includes operating and inputting means operable by a user and display means for displaying information,

the user terminal being started in response to an operation of the operating and inputting means to transmit the operating environment information indicative of the operating environment determined by the operating environment determining means through the network to the server, and to display the result of the determination received from the operation determining means of the server on the display means.

Claim 11 (Original):   The program supplying system of claim 9, wherein the user terminal orders the program from the server upon receipt from the server of the result of the determination that the program is operable.

Claim 12 (Original):   The program supplying system of claim 10, wherein the user terminal orders the program from the server upon receipt from the server of the result of the determination that the program is operable.

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Claim 13 (Original):   The program supplying system of claim 10, wherein the server further includes list generating means for generating a program list indicative of programs which can be supplied to the user terminal, and transmits the program list through the network to the user terminal, and

the user terminal displays the program list on the display means, and selects a program from the program list in response to an operation of the operating and inputting means.

Claim 14 (Original):   The program supplying system of claim 10, wherein the server further includes list generating means for generating a program list indicative of programs operable in the operating environment of the user terminal, and transmits the program list through the network to the user terminal, and

the user terminal displays the program list on the display means, and selects a program from the program list in response to an operation of the operating and inputting means.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended):   The program supplying system of claim 9, wherein the server further includes recording means for recording information on the user terminal, and records the result of the determination in the recording means when the operation determining means determines the program as being inoperable.

Claim 16 (Original):   The program supplying system of claim 9, wherein the user terminal may install the program supplied from the server to the user terminal through the network, thereby extending functions of the user terminal.

Claim 17 (Original):   The program supplying system of claim 9, wherein the user terminal is at least one of a personal computer and a complex type digital image forming apparatus.

Claims 18 and 19 (Canceled).